

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

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TUCSON, ARIZONA — JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1968

HUGE DISC SEEN BY TEENAGERS

Canadian APRO

Our congratulations to the officers and members of CAPRO — the Canadian Aerial Phenomena Research Organization. CAPRO is the result of a combination of CAPIC and the Canadian section of APRO. CAPRO will consist of an Eastern Division whose address is: P. O. Box 98, Postal Station A, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, and a Western Division with headquarters at 91 Voyageur Ave., Winnipeg 22, Manitoba, Canada. Allan K. Vezina will direct the Eastern Division and Brian Cannon will direct the western division. L. J. Lorenzen will be Chairman of the Board. CAPRO will be patterned after APRO in format with an advisory board of scientists and emphasis upon thorough, objective research.

We wish to make it clear that APRO and CAPRO will be administrated separately. There will be no change in APRO procedures. Members of APRO including those living in Canada will continue to send their dues to the Tucson office. Those wishing to join CAPRO are asked to contact the nearest CAPRO office listed above.

CAPRO will issue its own publication in a format similar to the APRO Bulletin.

We are happy to announce the formation of CAPRO, which, in addition to APRO Mexico and APRO Peru makes our world coverage even more effective.

Southern California APRO

All members in Southern California are asked to relay information of UFO cases which seem to be of significance that would warrant the attention of an APRO Investigation team to: Hal Kinney, 1651 Veteran Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90024. Telephone (213) 479-7285. For the purposes of this announcement, the Northern limit of southern California is defined as a line beginning on the west coast at Vandenberg AFB and running through Santa Ynez, Lebec, and Tehachapi, straight east to Highway 14, then following Highways 14 and 395 to Bishop, then due east to the Nevada border.

Please Send

Address Changes

Condon Committee Dismisses

Two Members

February 9, 1968—An official phone call from Mary Lou Armstrong of the UFO Study at the University of Colorado informed the Director that Dr. Levine and Dr. Saunders, both Senior Investigators with the project, had been discharged for reasons of incompetence. We found ourselves unable to take the stated reason for their discharge seriously since in our judgment these two gentlemen were as competent (if not more so) as any one else on the project. Subsequent inquiry vindicated this attitude.

Professor James MacDonald of the University of Arizona had recently written a letter to Robert Low (Coordinator of the Colorado UFO Study) detailing a number of criticisms of the manner in which the project is being conducted. His letter contained material obtained from Saunders and Levine which Low and Condon regarded as confidential and whose disclosure they considered a breach of trust. This was the immediate reason behind the dismissals.

As a matter of fact, however, this incident is only the culmination of an internal dissent which goes back more or less to the beginning of the study. The focal point of this dissent is the question of Condon's sincerity and competence to handle this sort of study. From Condon's point of view his action can be seen as an attempt to put to an end a long history of undercover agitation. No doubt this move will contribute much in the way of tranquility. What it will do for research in general and the effectiveness of the committee in particular is quite another matter. Whether or not the charges of MacDonald are true, the study cannot help but suffer from the loss of two key people at this stage of the game.

Lorenzens Filmed By BBC

Mr. Philip Daly and his crew were in Tucson in January to interview and film Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzen for a British Broadcasting Company Documentary on UFOs to be shown in the near future. The staff would appreciate a report on the program from English members after it is aired.

Four teenagers burst into the Lumsden, Saskatchewan office of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at about 9:20 p.m. on the night of October 24 to report a strange disc-shaped object which they had viewed just minutes before. Their story:

At a few minutes after 9 p.m. the four were driving on a country road two miles southeast of Lumsden. One of the quartet, who was driving, called attention to a glowing image to the northeast, saying it was a "flying saucer." The rest first thought it was the moon and laughed about it. Soon they realized that they were looking at something a bit more unusual than the moon. Later investigation helped them to estimate the size as about 40 feet in diameter, 10 feet high and lens-shaped like "two saucers joined lip to lip." The color was described as brilliant red with a darker red or black band across the center. As the four youngsters accelerated their car and headed north toward Lumsden the object moved eastward at an "ambling pace" and disappeared into a wide wooded ravine approximately one mile east of their point of observation.

Constable Ferguson was dispatched by radio to the spot and Corporal Parsons, on duty at the RCMP station, attempted to soothe the teenagers. Both boys were badly shaken up and the girls were hysterical. One girl was incoherent.

Meanwhile, Ferguson drove to the indicated location and observed a brilliant red light to the southeast of him approximately halfway to Regina. The red light bore white lights along the widest part, flashing on and off simultaneously at one second intervals. It was observed for three minutes from both inside and outside the Police cruiser. The object was seen at approximately 1300 feet and climbed into the cloud cover at a 45 degree angle and disappeared from sight. The constable described the ascent as comparable to a jet aircraft at takeoff. Inquiries at Regina elicited the information that there was 100% cloud cover and no aircraft on radar at that time.

The youngsters who made the initial sighting said the object was huge and could not have been an aircraft due to size, shape, lighting, maneuverability and location. Its angular size was 18 inches (at arm's length).

During the investigation of D. W. Coulthard and J. Kenneth Crosby, the

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Published by
THE AERIAL PHENOMENA RESEARCH
ORGANIZATION
3910 E. Kleindale Road
Tucson, Arizona 85716
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DR. AND MRS. OLAVO T. FONTES would like all the members to know how much they appreciated the expressions of reassurance they received during the Doctor's recent illness. DOCTOR FONTES, who is APRO's Brazilian Representative is well on the road to recovery and will be playing an integral part in APRO's future efforts.

Hynek Sets The Record Straight

Don Keyhoe's UFO Investigator for January-February, 1968, headlined as a "SURPRISE WARNING" a front page article with some rather startling statements purportedly made by Dr. J. Allen Hynek. Hynek's response: "I made no such statement." The following is the complete text of his letter of denial:

6 February 1968

Editors, The UFO Investigator
NICAP,
1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

I am distressed by the statement attributed to me (UFO Investigator) in which I purportedly stated that if the Condon Committee issued a negative report on UFOs I would open my personal files in rebuttal. I made no such statement. Such a statement would be quite contrary to my steadfast policy of in no way interfering with the Condon Committee's work either by deed or word and, in short, would be out of character. I do not know how the Condon Report will read, but in its preparation the Committee should be left entirely free to work according to its own lights and certainly without any interference from me, implied or direct. I hope that you will set this straight for the record.

Sincerely yours,
J. Allen Hynek
Director.

Matters of this sort are easy to clarify. It took the Director ten minutes and a phone call to obtain the following statement from Dr. Hynek concerning his current attitude:

Concerning your query about my present stand on the UFO situation; it is essentially the same as it has now been for several years, that is, namely, that a global phenomenon exists (the phenomenon of UFO reports) which is of sufficient interest and challenge to the inquiring mind to be worthy of serious scientific attention. Such attention, if it is scientific, should not assume an answer a priori. I have often said that if one assumes the answer in advance, it isn't research. Anything which troubles as many human minds as the UFO phenomenon seems to, constitutes a mystery that ought to be solved. To me a mystery is an itch that ought to be scratched.

Sincerely yours,
J. Allen Hynek
Director.

ITEM:

Our November-December 1967 Bulletin contained an article pertaining to the stopping of two vehicles on an English road—a Jaguar and a truck. Two items which are in doubt are the name of the truck driver and the reported fact that

both batteries were dead. Besides the press clippings, APRO received a report from a member in England who attended a meeting of BUFORA where the truck driver was interviewed. According to press cuttings the driver was named Farlow, but according to our reporter it was Barlow. The question of the battery was also reported at the BUFORA meeting but was not mentioned in the press. The problem is: how could both batteries have been dead when both men reported their lights and radios came back on without aid after the object left? It was not specified whether or not the batteries went dead afterward or not.

UFO Forum At Phoenix

On the 16th of March 1968 the Phoenix, Arizona Executives Club will present at its regular meeting a panel discussion on UFOs which will feature outstanding UFO experts, pro and con. The moderator will be Paul Dean of the Arizona Republic newspaper of Phoenix. Other members of the panel will be: Dr. James Harder, APRO Adviser; Dr. David Saunders, formerly senior investigator with the Condon UFO Committee at Boulder, Colorado (see item about dismissals in this issue); Dr. Donald Menzel of the Harvard Observatory; Dr. Leslie Kaeburn, Professor of Medicine at U.C.L.A., and a Mr. Hennessy, whose qualifications are not available to us at this writing.

Mr. James Soudriette, Program Chairman for the Executives Club has stated that he feels that the 16th of March meeting will have the largest attendance of any Program sponsored by the Club, and two thousand four hundred people including members are expected to attend.

Mr. Soudriette asked APRO to provide photos and art work to be used in the lobby display at the Towne House Hotel where the Program will be held and Mrs. Lorenzen was asked to be present to autograph available copies of the hard cover edition of her first book, "The Great Flying Saucer Hoax."

Dr. Frank B. Salisbury, Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle, Dr. Philip Seff and Dr. William D. Barnes of APRO's staff will attend the meeting and will be present at the press conference along with Mr. Lorenzen, APRO's Director, on the afternoon before the forum is held.

Mr. Soudriette informed this office that the Forum will be the forerunner of a National Network TV Spectacular dealing with the UFO Problem which is being planned for the near future. A complete report on the March 16th Forum will be presented in our March-April issue and further information on the Television program will be reported in the Bulletin when it is available.

Please Send

Address Changes!

Disc—

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boys said that after they took the girls home they started back to Regina on No. 11 highway. At a point about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Lumsden and one mile north of the original sighting where the ravine empties into the large Qu'Appelle Valley, they saw another strange object. At a point about halfway down the wooded southern valley slope 300 yards south of the highway, two white lights were seen flashing alternately on and off. The boys stopped the car and backed up in order to get a better look as the object was partially obscured by leafless trees and bush. The lights were described as bright, round and white and approximately 40 feet apart. They were stationary, level with each other and when one was on the other was off. There are no vehicle roads into the area, no buildings or residences at this point. The time was shortly prior to 10 p.m.

Strange Lights, Blast, Seem Connected

Residents in the area of Milton-Freewater, Oregon, experienced some strange phenomena during the fall of 1967 which seemed to culminate in a series of occurrences in late December. After a strange blast took place on the 28th of December, residents came forward and reported sightings of unusual aerial objects dating back to harvest time:

On August 4, 1967, Mr. and Mrs. Orin Anderson of Clyde observed a glowing yellow "ring of fire" which Mr. Anderson thought was a grain fire and turned in an alarm. Firemen arrived but there was no fire. The next day while running his combine through a field Anderson found a circular area in a field of wheat some 200 feet in diameter which was smashed down. He could find no animal tracks which might indicate animals were there and caused the flattening of the wheat. A week later a "slow, pulsating light" that moved up and down across the hills was seen by several people in the Clyde area. The light was yellow-white and all observers said it was too large to be a star.

The December 28th phenomena took place at 11 P.M. in a stubble field located south-southwest of Milton-Freewater approximately 200 feet from the Old Pendleton Highway. The principal witness, Mr. Arthur J. Wrinkle, is an ex-police officer and is now employed as an installation man on a TV cable project, as well as being a Deputy Sheriff and Constable. At 11 P.M., Wrinkle, family and friends were sitting in the living room. The guests were preparing to leave when Wrinkle's daughter saw flaming debris falling down from the sky. Thinking a plane was in distress, they all rushed outside where they witnessed the slow descent of what appeared to be seven or eight objects on fire. As they fell behind a bluff and out of range of

their vision, a muffled explosion was heard. Mr. Wrinkle and his son jumped on a Honda motorcycle and sped to the field where the objects were presumed to have landed. On the way they met a neighbor, Mr. Roloff, who told them something was burning in the field and he was going to notify local police. The Wrinkles proceeded to the field but could see nothing. They were searching the area with flashlights when local and state police arrived and roped off the area. At this point a hole was discovered which was approximately three feet across and one foot deep. The earth was dry and powdery at this point whereas the rest of the field was a freshly disked wheat stubble field — very damp, and if the ground had not been partially frozen, would have been very muddy.

At the site there was a strange odor hanging in the air which dissipated rather quickly, and was gone shortly after Wrinkle and the police arrived. Upon searching the area further, they found shreds of black, partially burned material with what appeared to be copper tubing attached, within a radius of 100 feet of the depression. The hole and residue was found within 100 feet from Pole 55, a high tension wire hookup running parallel to the highway. The Milton substation is approximately 500 yards from the site, and the lines and station are a part of the Bonneville Dam power line. A microwave relay system is located across the valley from the area of the blast.

The hole was probed but nothing was found except a few small pieces of black, burned material. The residue was sent to the State Police Crime Laboratory and an APRO member who investigated forwarded samples of all material to APRO Headquarters for analysis. A local police officer who is a demolition expert said the odd smell in the area at the site of the blast smelled like kordite, indicating a possibility that dynamite was exploded there. The witnesses, however, could not identify the odor.

State Patrol authorities said that the falling lighted objects were reported from as far away as Arlington, which is 140 miles distant, where witnesses thought a plane had gone down.

Some suspected a hoax initially, but some factors indicated something much less mundane. Two nights prior to the night of the blast, on Tuesday evening, the area of Sunnyside, which is one mile south of Milton-Freewater, and parts of Milton-Freewater were subjected to a blackout lasting from 7:30 P.M. to 10 P.M. Unexplained was the fact that a high tension wire had apparently "arced" to a natural gas line buried in the ground nearby.

Object Trails Train

We are indebted to Mr. W. K. Allan of Calgary, Alberta for a tape and report on an incident which took place on the

13th of October between Red Deer and Mirror, Alberta. Ben Benwick, engineer on a northbound freight from Calgary to Edmonton described a glowing, saucer shaped object which followed his train. At about 2 a.m. on that date, he and another trainman spotted the object hovering over a clump of trees about 120 miles north of Calgary. The underside of the disc glowed white and was ringed with flashing red, blue and green lights. As the train approached, the object elevated and proceeded to fly parallel to the freight for about an hour. A relief crew and station personnel at Mirror also observed the object as Benwick hauled his freight into the station.

First Sightings of 1968 in Brazil

On the 20th of January Deputies Bias Fortes and Pinheiro Chagas of *Brazilia*, Brazil's national capital, reported that they were 15 kilometers from the capital in a car when they saw a triangular-shaped object which hovered in the sky for five minutes and then disappeared. The time of the incident was 6 p.m. and at first the deputies refused to say much about the incident for fear of ridicule. Later they filled in some of the details for the press. The object was first seen in the west and both men got out of the car to watch it. It stayed in one position for about four minutes, then accelerated suddenly and sped toward Goiania.

On the 5th of January a night watchman at the *Sacramento* micro-wave station, described a large bright greenish object which he saw after he was startled awake by a loud blast in the area. Two other watchmen of *Verissimo* and *Harmonia* gave similar descriptions of similar objects seen at about the same time. The greenish object turned yellow and orange and eventually disappeared. This later incident is similar to many being logged at APRO Headquarters involving strange lighted objects seen just prior to, during or just after unexplained blasts or concussions. The towns mentioned in this paragraph are all located in the district of *Minas Gerais*, which is an area of Brazil which has been visited many times by UFOs. This is also the district where the *Uberlandia* blackout took place during the flight of a UAO in 1959. (See Mrs. Lorenzen's first book for details).

Landing Near Yarmouth, N.S.

Mr. Percy McBride of *Quinan*, Nova Scotia, reports that a strange-looking apparatus flew in from the east at 2 a.m. on November 29, 1967 and landed on a hill near him where it stayed for about 15 minutes. The landing site is in a wooded area. The sounds described by Mr. McBride are interesting: he said the object made a noise like "six radios turn-

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Landing—

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ed on—each on a different station." McBride was initially out in the woods back of Quinan near a big lake where he was camping. He was lying on his back by the fire looking up into the sky when the object came in from the east and "passed by" him. McBride said he got up and saw it land so he went over toward the object, eventually stopping about a quarter of a mile from it. He said the object was flashing "all sorts" of colored lights but that the main body of the object was white. It was about the size of a station wagon, he felt, but about 2 feet thicker. Two aerials protruded up into the air and he heard a clicking sound. He shouted to the object twice, asking "who it was." When he shouted the second time the aerials folded down into the object and a howling sound was heard as if it was sucking air in. It then took off, taking about 1½ minutes to disappear from sight.

While landed on the hill the object had a square box-like protuberance supported by a pole which hung underneath. When it took off the square box folded up into the main body of the object. Length of McBride's observation: 5 minutes. McBride was frightened by the spectacle and when he returned to his camping spot he extinguished the fire, afraid that the "thing" might come back.

On The Canadian Scene

The number of Canadian sightings of UFOs in the fall of 1967 held fairly steady and continued up into the new year. The following are a selection of those forwarded by our Canadian members.

On the 26th of September, farmer James Creighton and his brother William Creighton and his wife observed a soundless, round, flat object with a brilliant red light in the center of the bottom and four white lights arranged around the circumference as it flew over their farm at 8:15 p.m. Attention was first attracted to the sky by a jet going over, and the object was apparently following it. As the object approached the leading two white lights were as bright as headlights of a car. When it was about overhead the object seemed to bank at a forty-five degree angle and increased its speed until it was out of sight in the sky.

A light-bulb-shaped object was spotted on the night of October 19 by a woman returning to Airdrie from Calgary, Alberta. The woman spotted the object first at 10 p.m. and told her husband and a friend when she arrived at home. The three went outside and watched the object from the porch. They described it as having a reddish glow with a green light haze around it and a white spot in the center—"something like a regular light bulb shape" they said. At one point

it appeared to fall like a meteor, then zipped back up into the sky.

Five objects sporting red, pulsating lights were watched by a newspaper editor and two doctors over Carman on October 22nd. Two men attempted to chase the objects in their cars and although they could not gain on them the objects did not increase their distance either. After about seven miles the two men gave up the chase. The objects faded into the west.

A metallic-appearing disc-shaped object was observed over West Kootenay, British Columbia during the lunch hour on the 25th of October. Sixteen people including two Royal Canadian Mounted Police watched the object for about an hour, after which it moved rapidly into the west and disappeared. Walter Jackson, 29, said that he spotted the object at about noon, and it looked like a dinner plate. He thought it was a jet or a balloon at first as it moved around, circled the town and then just stopped and hovered at what he thought was about a mile altitude. Training a 60 power telescope on the object Jackson was able to make out a raised cabin-like structure on top but no windows or lights were visible. It was metallic-looking on the bottom and red on the top, he told investigators. All those who viewed the object, whether with the naked eye or through the telescope agreed that they could not identify it.

At Carlisle, Ontario on the 28th of October two schoolboys reported observing a hovering object which made no sound. At about 8:55 p.m. the boys said, they spotted the oval-shaped object with flashing red lights hovering at what they estimated to be about 35 feet above the ground. "We were only about 25 yards away from it and we watched for about 10 to 15 minutes," one of the boys said. The dog belonging to Eddie Hewitson "almost went crazy" said Anthony Terpstra, 15. Both agreed that the object had two white lights and two red lights and was about the size of a car. The red lights, they said, flashed alternately. The boys were observing it as it hovered over two houses on Alderson Road. It came directly overhead and stopped, then appeared to elevate to about 200 feet and headed north by northwest. Traveling at great speed it suddenly made a very sharp turn and then stopped again for a moment before it zipped out of sight. There was no noise accompanying the observation.

One of the 1967 fall incidents involves an object which literally upset the towns of Charleswood and Westdale, Manitoba, Canada on the night of October 22. More than 17 people reported to the RCAF and RCMP concerning their experiences. First sighted at about 6:45 p.m., the object or objects remained visible in various parts of the town until about 3 a.m. the next morning. The phenomenon was first seen over Westdale; a woman called her husband's attention to four flashing white lights over Assiniboia Downs. The

couple could not determine whether or not the lights were connected but they stayed together and sped across the sky at high speed toward the southwest.

At about 9 p.m. Mrs. Marion Harding picked up a flashing object in her telescope which remained fixed for a few moments and then was gone. It apparently disappeared when a plane approached. At 3 a.m. a woman woke up, went to the kitchen for a drink of water, and noticed an object with flashing red and green lights over the roof of a house across the street. A "silver-colored something" could be seen between the lights, she said, but she couldn't discern what it was. She didn't wake her husband as she felt he wouldn't believe her anyway.

At about the same time that Mrs. Harding observed the object people in Westdale, across town, spotted something. A couple caught sight of something from their living room window, but saw little except red lights that moved at great speed, changed shape (or formation) and seemed to form a figure 7. Two streets away from that sighting a salesman and saleswoman were showing a couple of prospective buyers some new homes. As they went outside preparatory to leaving they saw red lights hovering over a field about 300 yards away. They said the lights were a brilliant ruby red and two of the group walked toward the lights but did not approach too close. No sound was made, the object or lights stayed in that position for a few moments and then rose and veered toward the Perimeter Highway where it appeared to hover over the Hydro transmission tower. It remained fixed in that position for a few moments and then was gone.

At about 10 a.m. the next morning a painter who was working near the homes where the group of people had watched the object over the field, heard a curious "whining" whistle directly overhead and looked up but couldn't see anything. It lasted about two or three minutes.

On the Monday afternoon after the series of sightings RCMP officers as well as RCAF personnel were in the field where the object or objects had been hovering. Mrs. Marion Harding, working on behalf of APRO, was there and observed the photo-taking and investigation. She reports that no radioactivity was found but that three different types of impressions were found on the ground. One was a very narrow, deep-heeled, elongated print much like that of a woman's shoe, about 11 inches long. The second was a round cloven print in groupings of three and four—much like the tracks of a deer. The third was a rounded, horse-shoe type print which occurred in tight doubles like a figure eight.

The official investigators declined to give their names to anyone, and would not make any comment about the prints found at the scene where the object had been reported hovering the night before.

An 18-year-old postal clerk reported that on the morning of the 8th of No-

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Canada—

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vember he and four fellow workers watched a UFO in the skies over Sudbury, Ontario for about 10 minutes. Ronald Berube of Maner, Ontario said the object appeared to be about 10 to 15 times the size of a star and about 1500 feet in the air. It seemed to plunge earthward about 500 feet in a split second, and then took off and out of sight.

Harold Lee of Calgary, Alberta reported to authorities and the press that at 10:20 p.m. on the night of November 28 he was driving north on Highway 1A about a mile south of Aldersyde when the dash lights on his car began to flicker. The headlights also began to dim but the car engine was not affected. Recalling a similar incident in that area, Lee looked outside the car for mysterious lights of any kind. He saw a bluish green glow about 1,000-1,500 feet above his car which was moving from west to east. At Aldersyde he stopped his car and then heard a dull roar about the same intensity of that of a jet engine, and nothing else.

The Alliston-Cookstown-Barrie area of Ontario was the scene of a UFO chase by Ontario Provincial Policemen on the 21st of November. The slow-moving brilliant white light was first spotted by an Alliston constable at about 4 a.m. and a few minutes later Constables Paul Kendrick and Harold Rose also saw the object and tried to catch up with it. Constable Ed Ziliotto of Barrie heard discussion of the object on the police radio and drove south until he spotted the object drifting westward over Lake Simcoe.

At Sarnia, Ontario where there has been considerable UFO activity in the past, two local police observed and followed a set of flashing red, green and white lights for more than half an hour on the same morning. City Constable G. D. Nicholson said that he was driving his police cruiser east on Cathcart Blvd. when he spotted the flashing light ahead of him at 4:15 a.m. Nicholson first thought the object was an airplane light, then he spotted another light, a brilliant white one this time, directly south of the first set of lights. Another car summoned to help identify the lights met Nicholson and Constable Balford watched with him. The two did not believe the object were stars as they were moving faster than stars or planets; also, the lights were clearly seen below the overcast in the east. They shortly had to discontinue their watch (about 5 a.m.) when they had to leave for their specific patrols.

In the farming district about 100 miles northeast of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Mr. John Hrytzak and Gary Kostiuk spent two hours chasing "first one object and then another" between 7:45 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. on December 3rd. The first object, just a brilliant light, was sighted by Mr. Hrytzak near Highway

20 about four miles from Crystal Springs. His sister and her husband were visiting the farm, left to go home and about 20 minutes after they left the sister called and was so excited she could hardly talk. She said a large, radiant object had passed almost in front of their car causing them to stop, as they drove home from Hrytzak's farm. Her husband, Gary Kostiuk, his father and Mr. Hrytzak decided to investigate. During the next hour and a half they saw "three or four" objects which would appear, then vanish, then "pop up" elsewhere. At one point a dome-like object rested about 500 feet from them and illuminated the area. Its light seemed to come from within, the observers reported. After this experience, further down the road a glowing red object came toward the car and when it was almost above the car it changed to white. No sound was heard during this series of sightings.

Past Sightings Come to Light

Along with the usual flow of reports coming into headquarters are some old but very interesting ones which we will summarize here:

In the spring of 1944 or 1945 two grammar school teachers observed a cigar-shaped object which gave an impression of being transparent with rainbow colors and with lighted "ports" along its side, while driving near Auberry, Calif. in the Western Sierra Nevada mountains. The two ladies had gone to the mountains to deliver clothing gathered by a church group for the Indians there. On their way home as they rounded a curve on the mountain road the car's engine stalled. At that time they saw in front and just slightly below their level, the object which hung motionless in the air. The trees of the forested mountainside on the other side of it could not be seen through the object despite the illusion of transparency. After watching the object and commenting upon it for some time the driver of the car turned the key and attempted to start the engine. At that time the object began to glide "like a dirigible" out of the ravine to the mouth of the valley. When it reached the valley it rose straight up several times, then suddenly shot into the west with breath-taking speed and was gone within seconds. Not long after the object left a man came along who was a garage man in a tow truck and tried to find out what was wrong with the engine but could find no reason for the stall. All of a sudden the engine started by itself.

Our next case took place on the day after Thanksgiving in November of 1952 and is a case which has been talked about often but which we had not been able to resolve before. At about 4 P.M., on that day a secretary was working in a building on the MGM movie lot at Culver City, Calif. She and her boss were waiting for the crew to finish on Lot No. 2. Suddenly one of those for whom

they were waiting came running into the building, grabbed his belongings and messages. The secretary asked him if he was finished already. The man, on his way out the door, stopped and said no, they hadn't finished but they were through for the day. A flying saucer had come down over the filming crew, he said and if she came outside she could see it. The three ran into the street and the man pointed to 70 degrees elevation in the west where a tiny silvery disc could still be seen. While they stood and watched the secretary heard the full story. In the secretary's words: "When rehearsals have been completed and camera, lights and sound are satisfied with their positions, they call "Quiet," "Ready to Roll" and if the action takes place outside, all the crew scan the sky. "Hold it — there's one over there!" pointing to an airplane—probably a Piper Cub—soon the noise begins and they wait until it has gone. On Lot No. 2, too near the International Airport, the delays caused by the noise of aircraft can be measured in "Man Hours Per Diem"—especially since a movie lot is a target for every sightseer in the sky!" Unquote.

On the particular afternoon with which we are concerned, when the crew was ready to roll and the cameras were loaded, the crew scanned the sky and one of them shouted "Overhead. Hold it!" They looked up and saw a flying saucer above them. It came directly down as if to observe the action. The cameraman turned his camera upward and shot his film. The UFO elevated and sped off to the west and one music assistant left immediately for Lot No. 1, anxious to get home and tell his wife.

It was still visible when the music assistant arrived at the building where our informant was located. Before the assistant left for home another music assistant came up to report that the Air Force had been called and everyone on Lot No. 2 was to meet with the Air Force representative in the auditorium on the following Monday at 2 P.M.

During the next week our informant tried to find out from various people if the film was developed and what it showed but got a constant brush-off. Finally the music assistant who had informed about the meeting with Air Force representatives said to her, "Jean, forget it. We've been told not to discuss it. This is national security."

The names of the principals in the above case are on file at APRO Headquarters but it is felt that if they do not wish to have their names known those wishes should be honored.

A close encounter with what seems to have been a Saturn-shaped UFO took place on January 7, 1966 near Mobile, Alabama and involved an 18-year-old boy. The sighting did not become public until the recent publicity given to the UFO subject. The basic facts as related by the principal, Gary Finch:

Gary, the son of an Assembly of God

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minister and a well-thought-of boy, was rushing home from school to get ready for work at a grocery near his home in Wilmer, which is northwest of Mobile, Alabama. He had dropped off a friend, then headed home where he hoped to get his car washed before reporting on the job. His old auto was bouncing along a deeply rutted red clay road outside of Wilmer when, just as he rounded a curve he saw before him a globe-shaped object hovering over the intersection of the road he was traveling, and Brannan Highway. Finch said he was fascinated by the appearance of the object and could hardly keep from looking at it. He brought his car to a stop at the edge of the paved road, just a few feet from the object, and left the engine running. On top of the object was a light which kept blinking on and off. The object descended to within five feet of the ground and Gary described the noise it made thusly: "It was whining . . . you really couldn't hear it. I mean, you could hear it, but it wasn't really loud. It was real high, just sorta stings your ears — like a turbine or generator or something turning."

The object had the classic shape of the planet Saturn, being surrounded by a ring, which had no apparent connection with the main body and was about 19-20 inches out from it. The apparent size of the ring itself was 10-12 inches, and there were what appeared to be diamond-shaped notches spaced about a foot apart on the ring. The light on top was green, about the size of a softball and had a pitted appearance much like a golf ball. On the bottom of the globe was an apparatus which looked like a hoop and below it the outline of what appeared to be an entrance. The whole thing was silver and did not look like metal to Finch. He said it looked like 10-inch thick glass with an aluminum or silver coating on the inside.

After observing these details Finch became frightened and decided to leave and backed up his car. He intended to "sneak" around the thing, but as his front wheels touched the pavement the car coughed and "went dead." He tried to re-start it with no luck. A second or so later the object took off into the north with a whining sound which sounded much like a siren. Finch then tried the starter again and the car began to function normally.

Finch discussed the incident with only a few friends and his family, and contacted the Air Force which sent investigators. Finch told them how his watch, which had always worked well before, had stopped at 3:27, the time he skidded to a stop near the object. Over the spot on the blacktop highway where the object had hovered was found a two-foot wide pool of "dingy, dirty, chocolate brown substance." It smelled like sul-

phur and the odor lingered for more than a week. According to the Mobile Press for January 22, 1968, the Air Force had said that the Finch report was placed in a category of "hoaxes, hallucinations unreliable reports and psychological cases." Checks with Finch's colleagues and teachers at Southeastern Bible College in Lakeland, Florida, where he is a student, indicate that he is a very reliable young man.



Three Discs Photographed In Yugoslavia

On the 23rd of November 1967, an amateur astronomer, Damir Gradis and other amateurs were watching the sky from the observatory in Zagreb, Yugoslavia when they saw three unidentified flying objects, two "hanging" in the sky and the third moving slowly without noise. All three gave off a bluish colored light. No further information is available concerning the sighting and members in Europe who may have further details are asked to furnish same as soon as possible.

This Issue Marks the Beginning of the

APRO Bulletin's 17th Year

of Publication!

Disc Over Redlands, Calif.

On the 4th of February at about 7:20 p.m., about 200 residents of Redlands, California either saw or heard a huge low-flying disc-shaped object and at least one recording was made of the sound. Descriptions of the object forwarded to APRO indicate that the object seen was very much like the object seen by Rev. Father William Gill in New Guinea in June, 1959, although no occupants were seen in the Redlands case. A minister conducting services in a church in Redlands and recording the text of his sermon, obtained a recording of the sound which all described as a high-pitched modulated whining sound much like that of the "flying saucer" seen on the TV Program, "The Invaders." The investigation is being conducted by APRO Advisor and member Dr. Philip Seff of the University of Redlands. A complete report will be contained in our March-April issue.

New Photo of Landed Object

Shown at the left is a reproduction of a colored slide of an object on a mountain top in the Peruvian Andes 300 miles from Lima. The photo was taken by a passenger on a Lima to Buenos Aires jet flight in 1962 and furnished to APRO by an Argentine member. The Lima-Buenos Aires flight has been discontinued so it is not now possible to check the area although efforts are still being made. However, the large object is not the type of building to be found in that inaccessible area and inquiries to the Peruvian Air Force have not elicited any information. Close inspection of the slide indicates the circular object is just above the ground rather than resting on it.

More U.S.A. November Reports

Three boys of Scribner, Nebraska reported that at 9:15 p.m. on November 19th they spotted a football-shaped object while hunting five miles south of Scribner. It was in the vicinity of Maple Creek and appeared to be about 100 feet above the ground and travelling fast. They attempted to follow it but were soon lost. One side of the object had a red glow and the other side a white glow with a bluish cast.

An object seen from North Adams, Massachusetts and Stamford, Vermont as well as other points was generally written off as a sighting of a meteor despite the fact that at least one witness' description of the object precludes that explanation. Mrs. Gigliotti of North Adams was driving home from church at 6:30 p.m. when she saw "the thing" coming toward her car. Just before it

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reached her, it "swooped up," then hovered over a tree which she estimated to be between 50 and 70 feet tall. The object consisted of a circular mass of very bright lights. After a few seconds the object left, as soundlessly as it had come, emitting a glow from the trailing edge.

An object described by the viewer as a "flattened bell-shaped object" flew wing with a pilot for a period of 5 to 6 minutes on November 26th. The pilot was 46 air miles east of El Cajon, Calif. when the object first appeared, and it left when he was at 70 miles east of the city. He had taken off from Gillespie Field in El Cajon at 3:20 p.m. and was cruising at 140 miles per hour. The sky was cloudy, the pilot climbed above the clouds where visibility was very good. The object was first sighted at between 4,000-5,000 feet and it stayed at this altitude for 2-3 minutes off the right wingtip of his plane, then pulled away toward the East. When it pulled away it went up to "at least 7,000 feet." The pilot tried to follow it and climbed to 7,000 but it outdistanced him. The pilot, who said the object glowed an orange-red color, said he estimated it was 30-40 feet in diameter and between 10 and 20 feet thick.

On the same night, at about 7:30 p.m. a woman reported to Deputy Sheriff Blair Siepert that a brilliant object had trailed her car as she drove along the Archer-Lyman Highway near Rexburg, Idaho. She claimed that she spotted lights being reflected from above on the telegraph and telephone wires and when she looked up she noticed the object. It was also traveling east but above her car. When she turned south toward her home the object turned also, keeping on the east side of the car. She then rolled down the window and heard a whistling noise like a motor running at high speed. The object appeared to be round and had several bright yellowish-orange lights. Frightened, she speeded up and the object kept pace with her. When she arrived home the object turned and went directly east. She rushed into her home and brought her family out, who managed to see the lights disappearing into the east. When the object speeded up, the woman said, the lights got brighter.

The Question of Proof— A New Slant

By K. Gosta Rehn

People have seen it, heard no sound from it except some at close-range, smelled it and felt its effects (radiations etc.). It is obvious to everyone who has studied thousands of hard-core cases that the UFO is a real flying craft and not merely a mystical "phenomenon." When the observations are correlated you are amazed to find that in the main the details of the descriptions and gener-

al patterns agree with an almost tiresome regularity. Encouraged you proceed to apply the simple rule found in many sciences: From the particulars of the cases in mutual agreement you arrive at a generalization, the conclusion that the flying saucers are real. In my Swedish book of 1966, an orientation on the UFO problem, I put it like this: "If an unknown flying thing X, always accompanied by the properties, a, b, c, d, etc., has been competently observed thousands of times, the reports even having been instrumentally verified, it follows that X is a new reality, a new specimen of a flying craft." Furthermore, since the typical properties of X (the mere wobbling on edge in tight turns may settle many a dispute) are absent in the numerous objects and phenomena, quoted as misinterpretations, i.e. false saucers, X reveals its extraterrestrial origin. The idea of this origin is a working hypothesis, also affirmed by the observations of the intelligent manoeuvres and of the occupants of X.

This is the *qualitative* model of proof of the reality of the saucers. Statistical demonstration may give the model a rather quantitative frame. According to Prof. Allen Hynek (in Allers, a Swedish Weekly) the skillful statistical work of Dr. Jacques Vallee has so far confirmed the patterns sought for.

But, oh no, in the stern, if not philistine, minds of the astronomers and physicists this sort of proof would not do. They want a *quantitative* proof, measurements as per the rigorous methods of physics. There is no such proof, they say, there is only a highly *subjective* circumstantial evidence and relying on numerous misinterpretations they reject the whole pressing UFO problem. The saucers still do not exist in the edifice of physics. Meanwhile, new "natural" explanations of UFO pop up such as the lightning ball or plasma ball theory of Mr. Klass in Washington. Incidentally, this theory was seized on with delight by Swedish professional sceptics and slip-shod journalists. By comparing the form, exterior, the feats, effects and duration of the saucers with those of the alleged plasma conglomerations the task of refuting this new addition to saucer debunking schemes will be an easy one.

However, the UFO problem cuts across all sciences. It is unprecedented and absolutely unique. In our gropings we are by no means thrown upon physics and astronomy as our only recourse. The UFO problem is eminently fitted to be passed upon by modern scientific philosophy. Its *theory of science* is the proper forum for judging the UFO problem. And I have found that such a forum entitles me to claim *legitimate scientific validity* for the above qualitative model of proof. This approach lets us find the only road amidst the bickerings.

Briefly, the theory of science or the philosophy of science is a special function of modern scientific philosophy. In this forum are aired scientific differ-

ences, aims and informations. "Philosophy" aims at results which the other sciences can neither prove nor disprove. It may frame large general hypotheses which science is not yet in a position to test; but when it becomes possible to test the hypotheses they become, if verified, a part of science, and cease to count as "philosophy" (Bertrand Russell): Some specialists call it the science of sciences.

In a matter so charged with conflict as is the UFO problem, it appears at the outset that the philosophic theory of science in its considerations should be endowed with *superiority* over and above branches of science such as physics. Anyone who thinks of philosophy as a lot of moonshine, should consider the present unresolved conflicts in science, consider the great philosophers, grounded in the natural sciences, and on the other hand consider the famous physicists of our day who have turned philosophers in order to clarify their view of the world or to discuss their special problems.

The theory of knowledge is a part of the theory of science. How we get knowledge in various degrees, depends a lot on *perception*. Observation is a cornerstone in science. If A sees an object and B is assigned to check A's perception as an objective outsider, B may start to establish an intricate causal chain originating from the light waves emanating from the object, travelling through a medium, the atmosphere, and finally hitting the retina of A. It is all very difficult physics and so far so good. But what next happens in the brain of A is not accessible to direct observation and cannot be tested by the objective method. We know of course from nerve physiology that the stimulus on the retina triggers off an impulse travelling along the optic nerve to the visual center in the brain. At most it may be ascertained that some sort of colored pattern has been formed on the retina of A that cannot in any way represent the true character of the object or the full-blooded picture perceived.

When you consider self-observation or introspection, however, things will look different. The subjective, private perception may yield an adequate direct knowledge about the object. We not only react to external objects, but we *know* that we react. Consciousness, memory, past reaction pattern, expectation etc. are involved. Witness psychology may make sure that these events in the brain have not distorted the picture perceived and described. Neither is witness psychology in checking the reliability of an UFO report overlooking the factor of terror, that in many cases has put the vegetative nervous system out of commission with obnoxious bodily consequences. This factor may strengthen the reliability of a lone witness who relates his harrowing experience with an UFO. Generally, the similarity of details in the reports enhances credibility of individ-

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ual accounts. Quoting modern Gestalt-psychology, form and wholeness are primary facts in perception. And every UFO report speaks of form.

The point in the theory of science relevant to the UFO problem is that in perception of an object self-observation is acknowledged to be a source of true knowledge. Thus the objections of hostile UFO critics about the alleged unreliable subjectivity in the saucer reports falls to the ground. The excellent definition by Anatol Rapoport illustrates the point: "Man is a self-studying servomechanism"—in distinction to other animals. Shorn of divers irrelevant elements in his perception the observer may behold a satisfactory picture of an UFO. What is it that is not subjective? Even in physics the testing of an instrument reading by another depends on self-observation. Nobody can claim that the two observations were exactly the same in time and space. A certain if ever so insignificant difference is always slipping in. Hence physics is also infected with subjectivity.

The above account is largely a crude simplification of Russell's theory of science, espoused by most philosophers. Lord Bertrand Russell is a scientist and the greatest philosopher of our time. Perception is the intricate, recurrent subject in his books. Note that the authors of several new books on perception confine themselves to the nerve-physiological-psychological aspects only and not to the wider philosophical analysis of perception.

In Spring 1966 three Swedish scientists conducted a discussion in a newspaper. It was mentioned that absolute faith in science does not agree with modern theory of science. The orders, rules, laws and formulas we develop in our scientific systems are *models*. They are no unambiguous and conclusive descriptions of reality. We are entitled to choose among these models and select the one that is best suited for our account of reality. On different levels, on different interpretative stages, different kind of models may be eligible, befitting for our orientation.

Bertrand Russell, the logical empiricist, praises physics as the most advanced of all sciences. However, he has also pointed out the new statistical views of approximation that are making inroads in modern science. In harmony with the above Swedish discussion and with his theory of science he says:

"Those who think that science is everything become complacent and cocksure, and decry all interest in problems not having the circumscribed definiteness that is necessary for scientific treatment . . . On the other hand, those who pooh-pooh science revert, as a rule, to some ancient and pernicious superstition (of the occult UFO interpreters) . . . Those who have a passion for quick re-

turns and for an exact balance sheet of effort and reward may feel impatient of a study which cannot, in the present state of our knowledge, arrive at certainties, and which encourages what may be thought the time-wasting occupation of inconclusive meditation on insoluble problems. To this view I cannot in any way subscribe . . . The demand for certainty is one which is natural to man, but is nevertheless an intellectual vice . . . Dogmatism and scepticism are both, in a sense, absolute philosophies; one is certain of knowing, the other of not knowing. What philosophy should dissipate is *certainty*, whether of knowledge or of ignorance. Knowledge is not so precise a concept as is commonly thought . . . all our knowledge is, in a greater or less degree, uncertain and vague . . . One may say broadly: all that passes for knowledge can be arranged in a hierarchy of degrees of certainty, with arithmetic and the facts of perception at the top." "Scientific laws may be very nearly certain, or only slightly probable, according to the state of evidence."

These lucid lines from Russell's "Unpopular Essays" hits the key to the whole UFO problem. They also give a severe jolt to the absolutism or dogmatism of the anti-saucer crowd of scientists, military men and their dupes. The denials of these die-hards of saucer reality are in fact a contribution to saucer psychology. They are victims to the wide-spread debunking propaganda. In the name of high science the professors feel insulted when contradicted on a supposedly shabby subject such as the UFO-problem. Clanship spirit helps saving loss of prestige by upholding the UFO-taboo and refraining from studying the UFOs. Above all they are victims of a *scientific gross misjudgment* of the UFO problem. Probably they are not aware of the fact that they have violated the principles of modern scientific theory. They have not as yet realized that in the scientific UFO-problem, that cuts across borderlines, philosophy of science has jurisdiction and must rule on the problem, claiming superiority over sundry scientific professions.

You simply cannot stand on the demand of the physical sciences for quantitative measurements and for 100% certainty as to the reality of the flying miracle machines, and at the same time throw at the side the enormous evidence mustered in ten thousands of observation reports. Furthermore, these antagonists have not lifted a finger to help accomplishing their objective, such as the creation of scouting networks on the watch for procuring photographs, spectographs and other evidence that could bring in the wanted measureable data. Consequently, their proof requirements rest on a shaky ground. In the light of recent developments the burden of proof should be shifted to the deniers. It is about time that this grotesque controversy about the UFOs be stopped, nourished as it is by a false propaganda.

Among the admirable, serious books on the subject I find two by Dr. Jacques Vallee. All through they breathe confidence in the reality of the saucers. But there are important exceptions. In Vallee's "Anatomy" and in his "Challenge" there is a muddled verbiage that pays a timid tribute to the inapplicable scientific standards of the adversaries. The long-winded pronouncements by Vallee are confusing. What they amount to is this: UFO exists only on pieces of paper, called reports. We really have the right to analyze stories on those papers—imagine: But not the UFO itself: UFO is only a "phenomenon," you know, a perception of a visual object. The alleged "object" escapes rational analysis. The observations, which the naive UFOlogist thinks is an empirical treasure, are of no value in themselves. They only illustrate a phenomenon. The UFO phenomenon, he goes on, sometimes "manifests" itself. But that is only in the image. Now Vallee starts to classify and claims "a completely different point of view, which apparently has never been presented before" (of my slant submitted). After some mysterious eliminations "we are left with a set of reports which we call manifestations of the UFO phenomenon."

Why this beating about the bush? If Vallee holds that the UFO phenomenon is a forever hidden mystery, it has become a "thing-in itself" that Kant speaks about. Thus Vallee, like Michel, seems to subscribe to a philosophical *phenomenalism* that is discarded by modern philosophy. Or, does he find it practical to hedge about in Vaihingers "as-if" philosophy in his frantic endeavor to appear sceptical and scientifically respectable? I think that these passages are a flaw in his fine work.

Naturally, I hail Vallee as a great comrade in the UFO-game. I join his plea for a world-wide correlation of UFO-reports and for bringing every tool of modern scientific technique to bear upon the problem (mathematical statistics, computer technique, operation analysis, cybernetics and the information theory, the theory of games etc.). A lot of work is awaiting the courageous, costing millions and time. My special plea here is for scrutiny of the problem in the light of scientific philosophy. It may be a short-cut. I cannot bother 96-year-old Bertrand Russell, but there are professors in this specialty, who might be willing to take time off and study my outline. I am thinking of professors Stephen Toulmin in the USA, Karl Popper in England, Hakan Tornebohm in Sweden—not to speak of several interested scientists, active in their own fields. Finally, a note of hopefulness: a future cooperation by an agency of U.N.

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